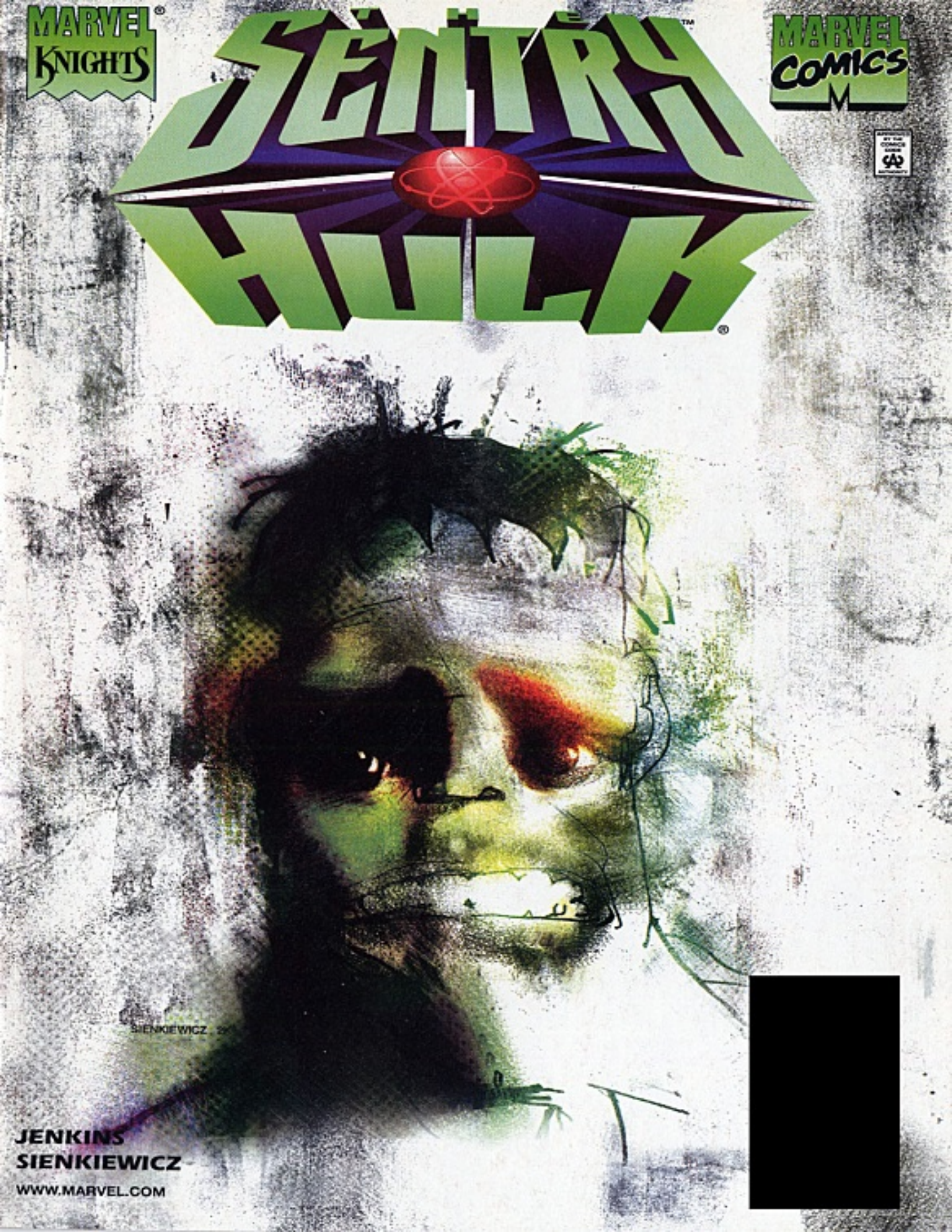
MARVEL KNIGHTS

SENTRY HULK

MARVEL COMICS



JENKINS
SIENKIEWICZ

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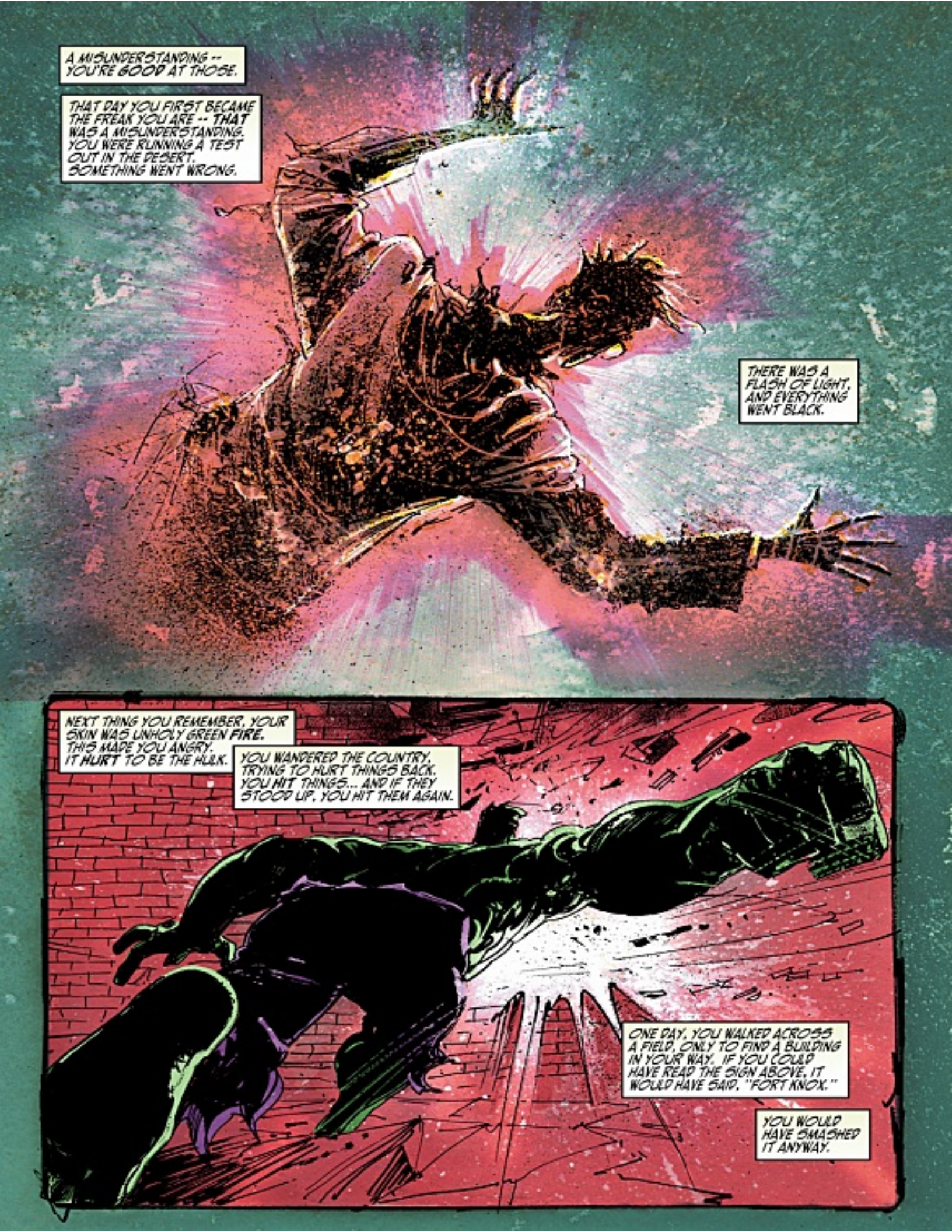
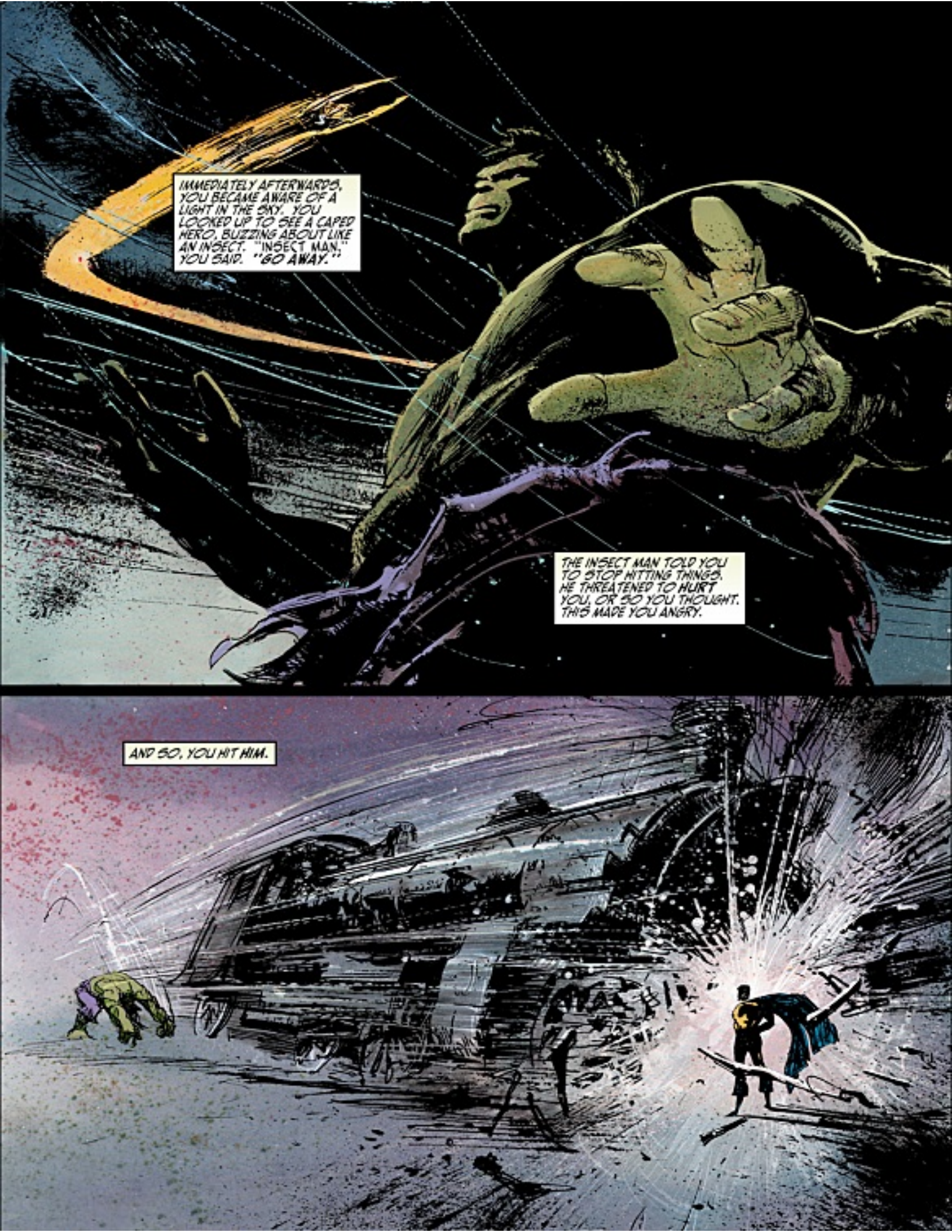
YOU ARE THE HULK. YOU ARE BRUCE BANNER.
YOU ARE MAN, MONSTER AND EVERYTHING IN-BETWEEN.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER BEEN AFRAID.

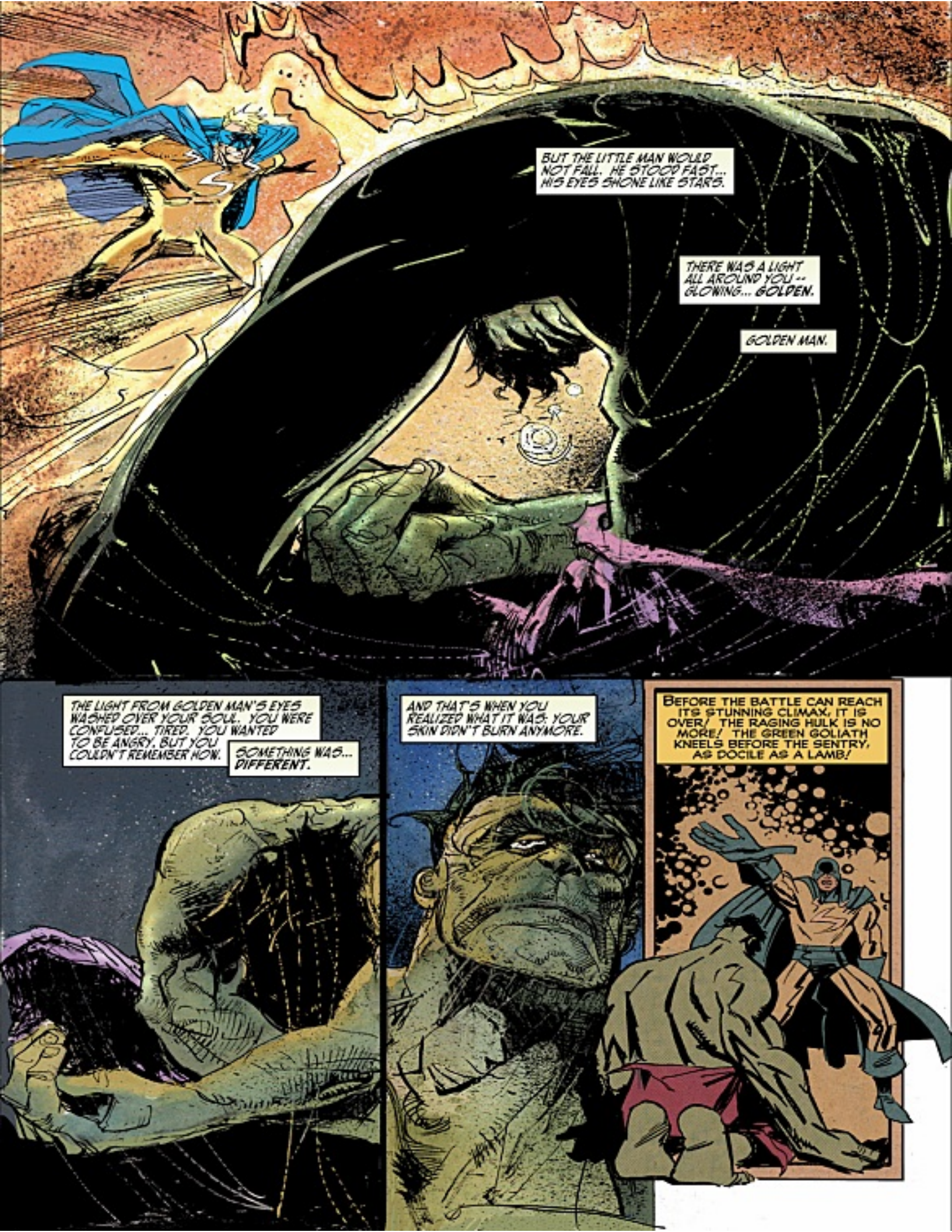
BEFORE THIS DAY ENDS, YOU'RE GOING TO STAND ALONGSIDE THE HEROES OF THIS MARVELOUS UNIVERSE, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY. AND TOGETHER, YOU'RE GOING TO FALL.
BECAUSE THE VOID IS COMING BACK--THE ONE UNHOLY TERROR THAT EVER FOUND ITS WAY THROUGH YOUR THICK, ARMOR-PLATED HIDE AND RIGHT DEEP DOWN INTO YOUR HEART.
YOU FEEL HIS PRESENCE IN THE POISON AIR THAT WHIPS AT YOUR LUNGS -- HE'S LAUGHING AT YOUR FEAR, SINGLING YOU OUT.
"GET READY, FRANKENSTEIN." YOU HEAR HIM WHISPER. "BECAUSE I'M COMING FOR YOU. ALWAYS FOR YOU."
AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHY, YOU KNOW THE VOID SPEAKS THE TRUTH. THE CREATURE IS AN INK STAIN OF ANTIPATHY, RETURNED IN THE FORM OF A HURRICANE TO DESTROY THE WORLD HE ABHORS.
AND YOU ARE THE ONE HE HATES MOST OF ALL, HULK.
STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE SENTRY & HULK
PAUL JENKINS WRITER
BILL SIENKIEWICZ ARTIST
JOSE VILLARRUBIA COLORIST
RS & COMICRAFT'S JOHN ROSHELL LETTERING
MIKE RAICHT ASST. EDITOR
MIKE MARTS EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU LOOK TO THE SKY AS THE TEMPEST BEGINS TO WAIL LIKE AN AIR-RAID SIREN IN YOUR CAULIFLOWER EARS. THERE, FLYING STRAIGHT AND TRUE ABOVE, IS THE ONE MAN YOU EVER TRUSTED--THE SENTRY.
WHY DID HE GO AWAY, YOU WONDER? WHY DID HE LEAVE YOU, JUST WHEN YOU WERE BEGINNING TO FIND YOURSELF?
HE WAS YOUR GOLDEN MAN, THE ONE PERSON WHO HAD SWORN TO PROTECT YOU... BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM. IT WAS SOMETHING MONUMENTAL.
DEEP IN THE CONVOLUTED MORASS YOU CALL A MIND, A STRANGE THOUGHT HAS BEEN TRYING TO WORM ITS WAY TO THE SURFACE: WEREN'T THINGS SUPPOSED TO BE AS THEY ARE TODAY? WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE HEROES?
YOU ARE THE HULK -- A MOUNTAINOUS SWARM OF MUSCLE AND BONE, A CLUSTER OF GAMMA-IRRADIATED CELLS. YOU ARE BRUCE BANNER, SCIENTIST.
THERE HAVE BEEN A THOUSAND STORIES TOLD OF WHO YOU WERE AND WHO YOU ARE... BUT SOMETHING'S STILL MISSING.
AND NOW, THE SENTRY'S REAPPEARANCE HAS HELPED YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT IS:
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
"THE TERROR OF THE TOAD MEN!"

YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO REMAIN AS THE HULK.
12¢
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
7 MAY.
WITNESS: THE GREATEST BATTLE IN HISTORY AS THESE TWO MIGHTY TITANS OF MARVEL CLASH FOR THE FIRST TIME!
IT'S ALL BEEN A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING.
The GOLDEN GUARDIAN vs. The GREEN GARGANTUAN!

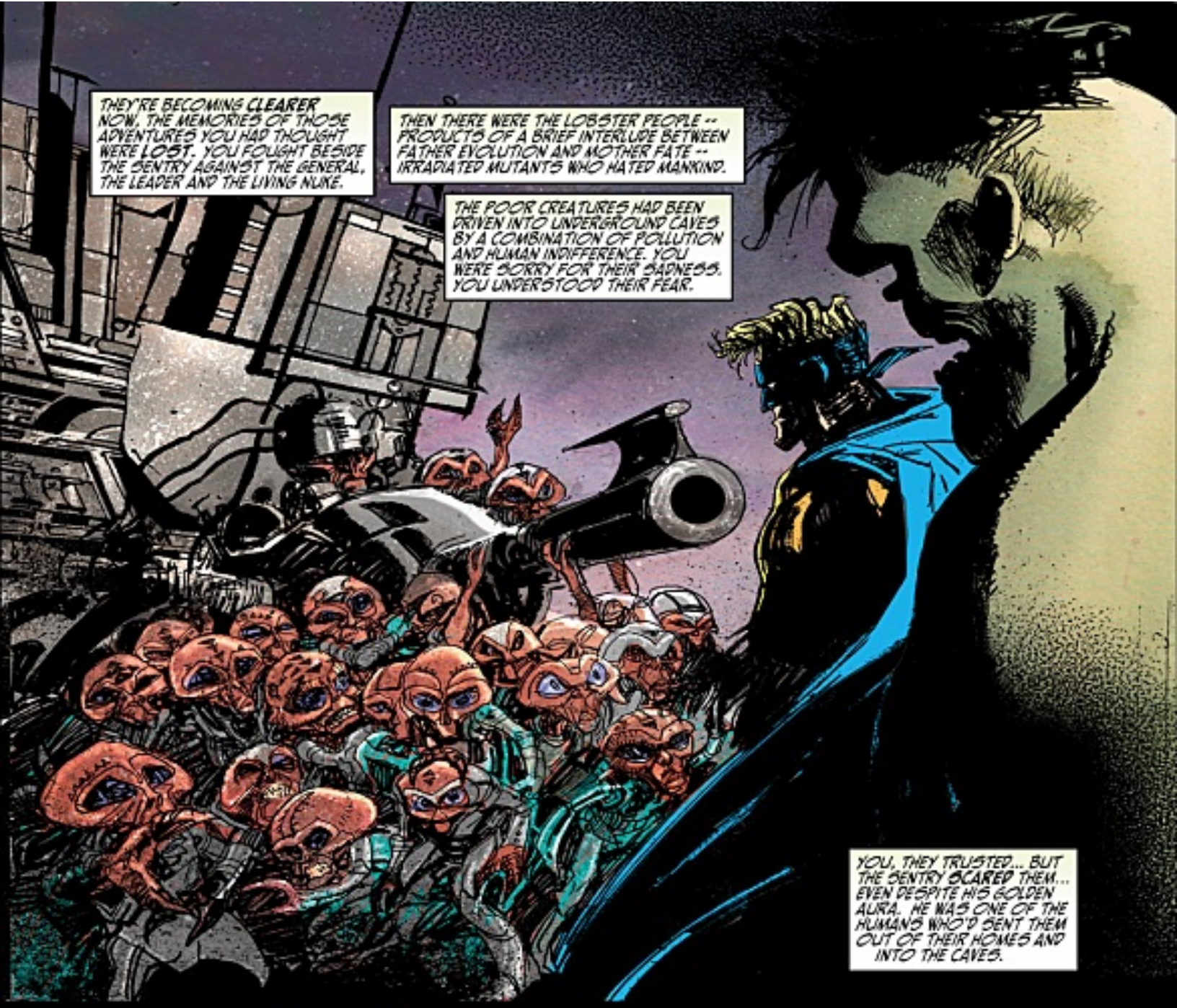

A MISUNDERSTANDING -- YOU'RE GOOD AT THOSE.
THAT DAY YOU FIRST BECAME THE FREAK YOU ARE -- THAT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING. YOU WERE RUNNING A TEST OUT IN THE DESERT. SOMETHING WENT WRONG.
THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT, AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK.
NEXT THING YOU REMEMBER, YOUR SKIN WAS UNHOLY GREEN FIRE. THIS MADE YOU ANGRY. IT HURT TO BE THE HULK.
YOU WANDERED THE COUNTRY, TRYING TO HURT THINGS BACK. YOU HIT THINGS... AND IF THEY STOOD UP, YOU HIT THEM AGAIN.
ONE DAY, YOU WALKED ACROSS A FIELD, ONLY TO FIND A BUILDING IN YOUR WAY. IF YOU COULD HAVE READ THE SIGN ABOVE, IT WOULD HAVE SAID, "FORT KNOX."
YOU WOULD HAVE SMASHED IT ANYWAY.


IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, YOU BECAME AWARE OF A LIGHT IN THE SKY. YOU LOOKED UP TO SEE A CAPED HERO, BUZZING ABOUT LIKE AN INSECT. "INSECT MAN," YOU SAID. "GO AWAY."
THE INSECT MAN TOLD YOU TO STOP HITTING THINGS. HE THREATENED TO HURT YOU, OR SO YOU THOUGHT. THIS MADE YOU ANGRY.
AND SO, YOU HIT HIM.


BUT THE LITTLE MAN WOULD NOT FALL. HE STOOD FAST... HIS EYES SHONE LIKE STARS.
THERE WAS A LIGHT ALL AROUND YOU -- GLOWING... GOLDEN.
GOLDEN MAN.
THE LIGHT FROM GOLDEN MAN'S EYES WASHED OVER YOUR SOUL. YOU WERE CONFUSED... TIRED. YOU WANTED TO BE ANGRY. BUT YOU COULDN'T REMEMBER HOW.
SOMETHING WAS... DIFFERENT.
AND THAT'S WHEN YOU REALIZED WHAT IT WAS: YOUR SKIN DIDN'T BURN ANYMORE.
BEFORE THE BATTLE CAN REACH ITS STUNNING CLIMAX, IT IS OVER! THE RAGING HULK IS NO MORE! THE GREEN GOLIATH KNEELS BEFORE THE SENTRY, AS DOCILE AS A LAMB!

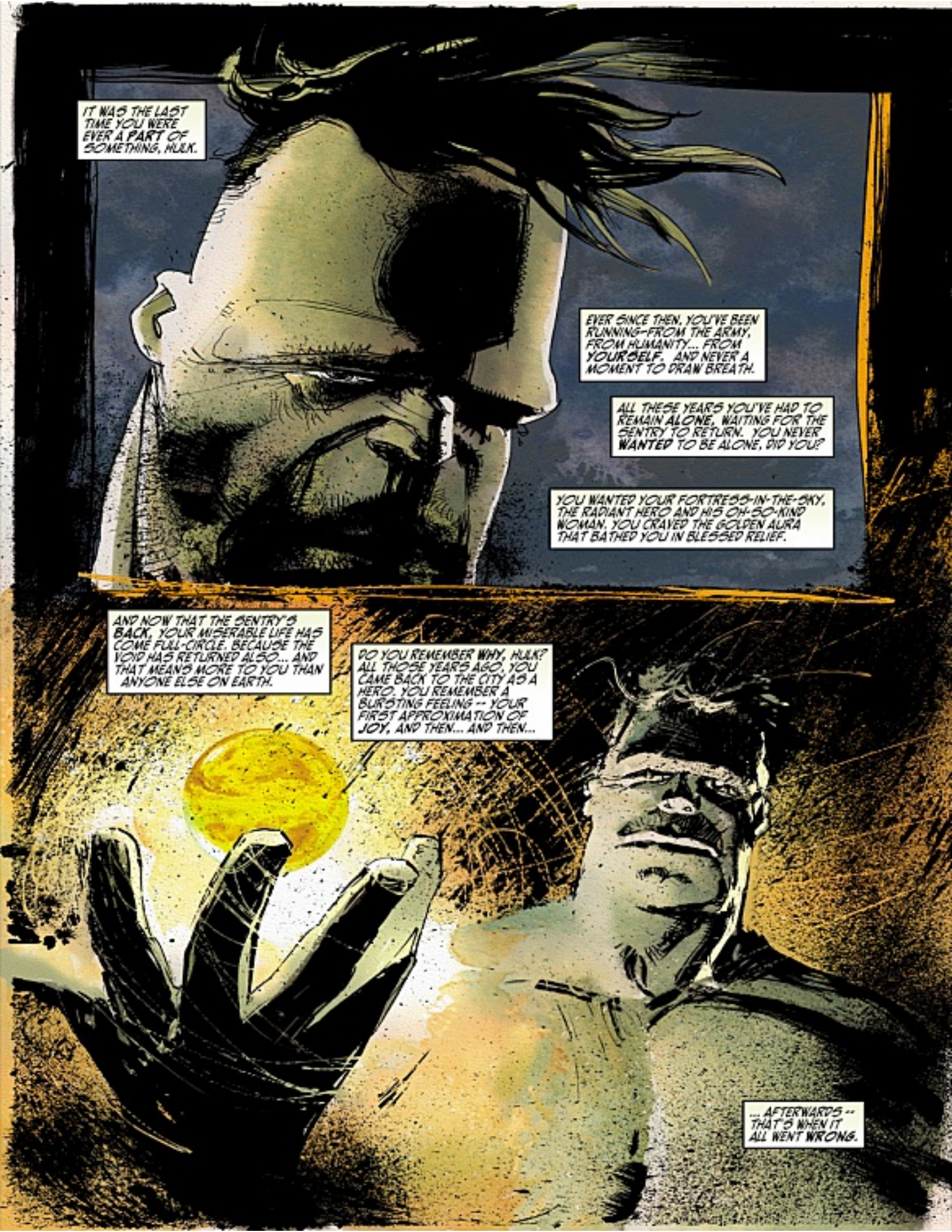
LISTEN, HULK, AND YOU CAN HEAR HIS LONG-AGO WORDS AS IF THEY WERE SPOKEN JUST MOMENTS AGO.
"WE'RE GOING TO FIX YOU, BRUCE. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU WELL AGAIN.
"SOMEHOW, MY GOLDEN AURA HAS A CALMING EFFECT ON THE HULK. JUDGING BY THE BEAST'S REACTION SO FAR, I'D SAY HE'S EVOLVING. HE'S BECOMING DOCILE... MANAGEABLE.
IND.
12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
10 NOV.
HULK AND THE SENTRY REUNITE TO BATTLE THE SINISTER LOBSTER PEOPLE!
"IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON -- YOU'RE GOING TO BE WELL AGAIN. YOU AND ME, BRUCE... WE'LL BE A TEAM.
"AS LONG AS YOU STAY CLOSE TO ME, YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR."

YOU LIVED IN A FORTRESS IN THE SKY UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF YOUR NEWFOUND MENTOR AND FRIEND.
THERE WAS FOOD THERE, AND A PUPPY. GOLDEN MAN'S WOMAN WAS KIND TO YOU -- YOU LIKED HER VERY MUCH, YOU REMEMBER. YOU SLEPT IN THE KITCHEN, WHERE A WARM, GOLDEN GLOW EMANATED FROM ALL AROUND.
OVER TIME, YOU LEARNED TO HARNESS YOUR POWER--TO TRANSFORM INTO THE HULK ONLY WHEN NEEDED. YOU EMBRACED BRUCE BANNER AND HE EMBRACED YOU.
TO THE SKIES, GREEN GOLIATH -- WE ARE HUMANITY'S ONLY HOPE!
YOU BECAME A HERO. AND TOGETHER, YOU AND THE SENTRY SET ABOUT THE TASK OF FIXING THE WORLD...

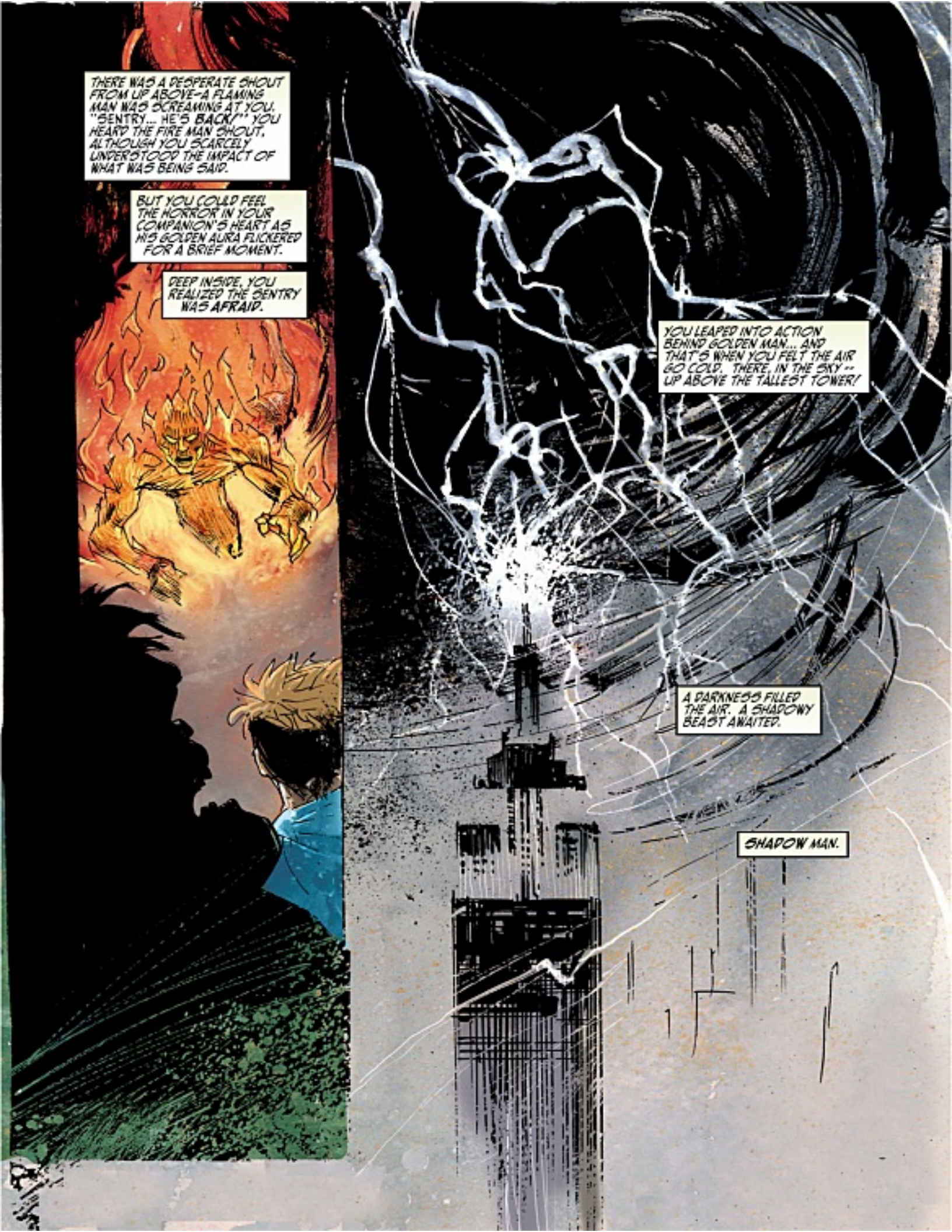

THEY'RE BECOMING CLEARER NOW. THE MEMORIES OF THOSE ADVENTURES YOU HAD THOUGHT WERE LOST. YOU FOUGHT BESIDE THE SENTRY AGAINST THE GENERAL, THE LEADER AND THE LIVING NUKE.
THEN THERE WERE THE LOBSTER PEOPLE -- PRODUCTS OF A BRIEF INTERLUDE BETWEEN FATHER EVOLUTION AND MOTHER FATE -- IRRADIATED MUTANTS WHO HATED MANKIND.
THE POOR CREATURES HAD BEEN DRIVEN INTO UNDERGROUND CAVES BY A COMBINATION OF POLLUTION AND HUMAN INDIFFERENCE. YOU WERE SORRY FOR THEIR SADNESS. YOU UNDERSTOOD THEIR FEAR.
YOU, THEY TRUSTED... BUT THE SENTRY SCARED THEM... EVEN DESPITE HIS GOLDEN AURA. HE WAS ONE OF THE HUMANS WHO'D SENT THEM OUT OF THEIR HOMES AND INTO THE CAVES.

GOLDEN MAN -- BACK!

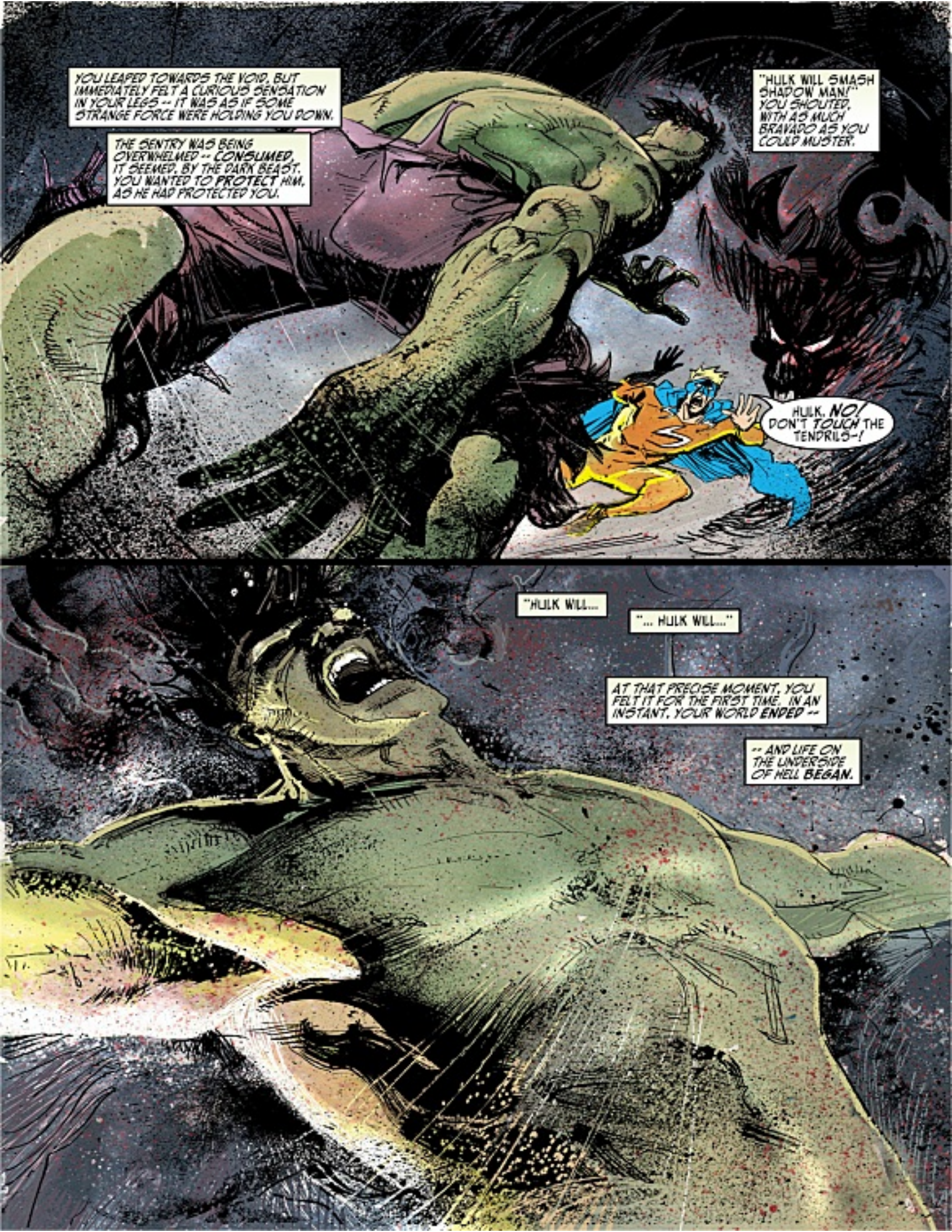
THE MEMORIES OF WHAT FOLLOWED ARE VAGUE -- YOU REMEMBER A LOUD NOISE... THE IMPACT OF THE WEAPON'S RECOIL HAD CAUSED ONE OF THE MUTANTS' DWELLINGS TO COLLAPSE.
THE CAVES BEGAN TO COME DOWN AROUND YOU. YOU HELD UP AN ENTIRE MOUNTAIN, YOUR MUSCLES STRAINING TO PRODUCE EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH YOU HAD AS GOLDEN MAN SWOOPED TO SAVE TWO OF THEIR YOUNG.
THE MUTANTS WATCHED IN ANGUISH. AND THEN, YOU HEARD A SOUND LIKE THE RUSTLING OF LEAVES COMING FROM THE LOBSTER PEOPLE.
CHEERING. FOR YOU AND THE SENTRY.
AND SUDDENLY, YOU HAD TRANSCENDED BEASTHOOD. A NEW FEELING CAME UPON YOU, OFFERED BY THESE OUTCASTS. YOU WERE A HERO... LOVED, CHERISHED.
ACCEPTED FOR THE PERSON YOU WERE.


IT WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE EVER A PART OF SOMETHING, HULK.
EVER SINCE THEN, YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING--FROM THE ARMY, FROM HUMANITY... FROM YOURSELF. AND NEVER A MOMENT TO DRAW BREATH.
ALL THESE YEARS YOU'VE HAD TO REMAIN ALONE, WAITING FOR THE SENTRY TO RETURN. YOU NEVER WANTED TO BE ALONE, DID YOU?
YOU WANTED YOUR FORTRESS-IN-THE-SKY, THE RADIANT HERO AND HIS OH-SO-KIND WOMAN. YOU CRAVED THE GOLDEN AURA THAT BATHED YOU IN BLESSED RELIEF.
AND NOW THAT THE SENTRY'S BACK, YOUR MISERABLE LIFE HAS COME FULL-CIRCLE. BECAUSE THE VOID HAS RETURNED ALSO... AND THAT MEANS MORE TO YOU THAN ANYONE ELSE ON EARTH.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHY, HULK? ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, YOU CAME BACK TO THE CITY AS A HERO. YOU REMEMBER A BURSTING FEELING -- YOUR FIRST APPROXIMATION OF JOY. AND THEN... AND THEN...
... AFTERWARDS -- THAT'S WHEN IT ALL WENT WRONG.

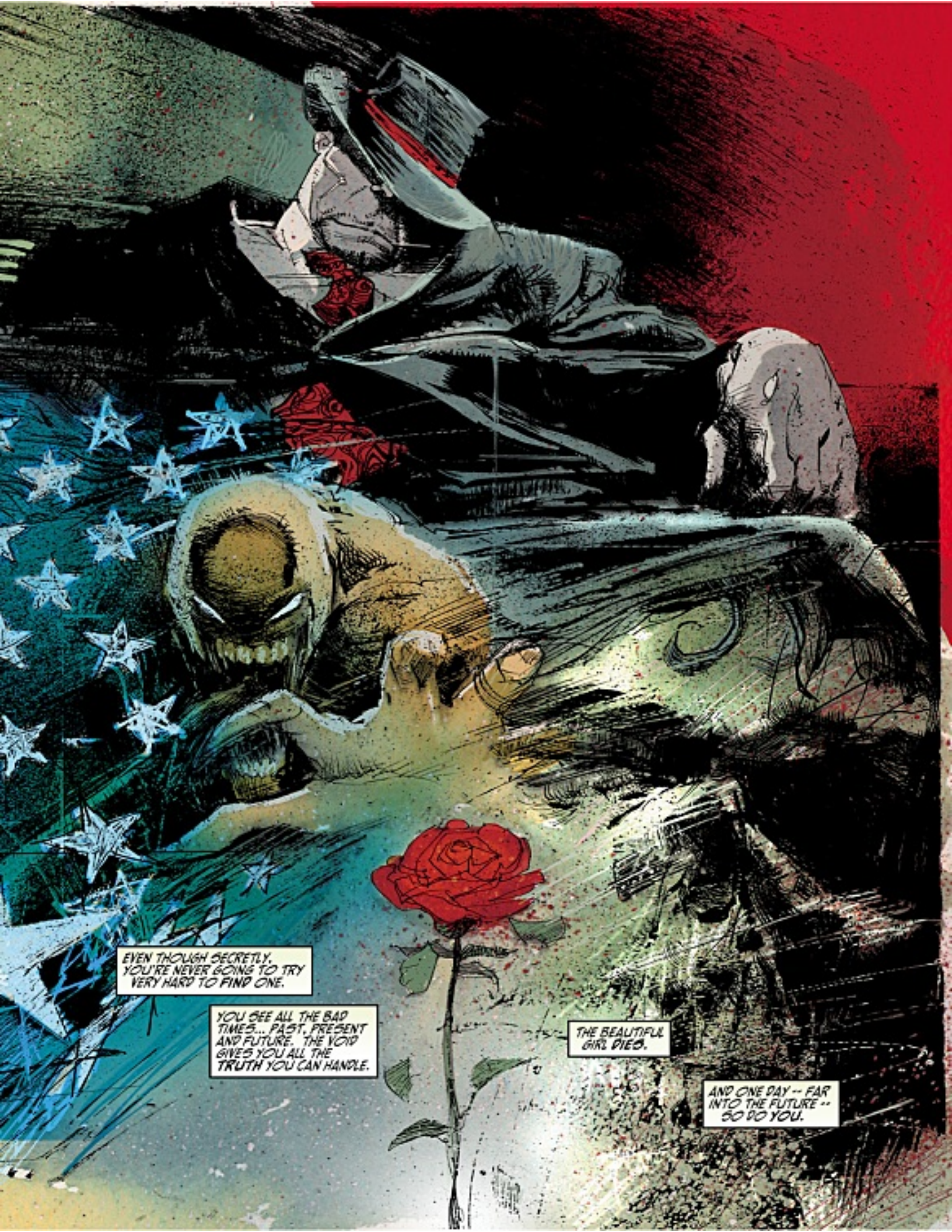
SUDDENLY, THE HULK IS OVERWHELMED BY DARKNESS..!
NO! SHADOW MAN IS HURTING HULK! LEAVE HULK ALONE!
THAT'S IT... YOU REMEMBER IT NOW, DON'T YOU, HULK? IT WAS GOING TO BE YOUR PERFECT DAY.
YOU'D SAVED HUMANITY FROM THE MUTANT MENACE OF THE LOBSTER PEOPLE AND BEFORE YOU KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING THERE WERE ACCOLADES, GIFTS... AN OUTPOURING OF LOVE YOU'D NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.
THERE WERE REQUESTS FROM CNN AND THE TONIGHT SHOW. A FESTIVAL WAS DECLARED IN YOUR HONOR... PRETTY LIGHTS AND TICKERTAPE ALL AROUND.
PEOPLE CRYING, "HULK, HULK, HULK!" FLASHBULBS AND ARMED POLICE ESCORTS.
AND YOU-A SIMPLE BEAST PERCHED IN THE BACK OF AN OPEN-TOP LIMO... UNSURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT ALL.


THERE WAS A DESPERATE SHOUT FROM UP ABOVE--A FLAMING MAN WAS SCREAMING AT YOU. "SENTRY... HE'S BACK!" YOU HEARD THE FIRE MAN SHOUT, ALTHOUGH YOU SCARCELY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPACT OF WHAT WAS BEING SAID.
BUT YOU COULD FEEL THE HORROR IN YOUR COMPANION'S HEART AS HIS GOLDEN AURA FLICKERED FOR A BRIEF MOMENT.
DEEP INSIDE, YOU REALIZED THE SENTRY WAS AFRAID.
YOU LEAPED INTO ACTION BEHIND GOLDEN MAN... AND THAT'S WHEN YOU FELT THE AIR GO COLD. THERE, IN THE SKY -- UP ABOVE THE TALLEST TOWER!
A DARKNESS FILLED THE AIR. A SHADOWY BEAST AWAITED.
SHADOW MAN.

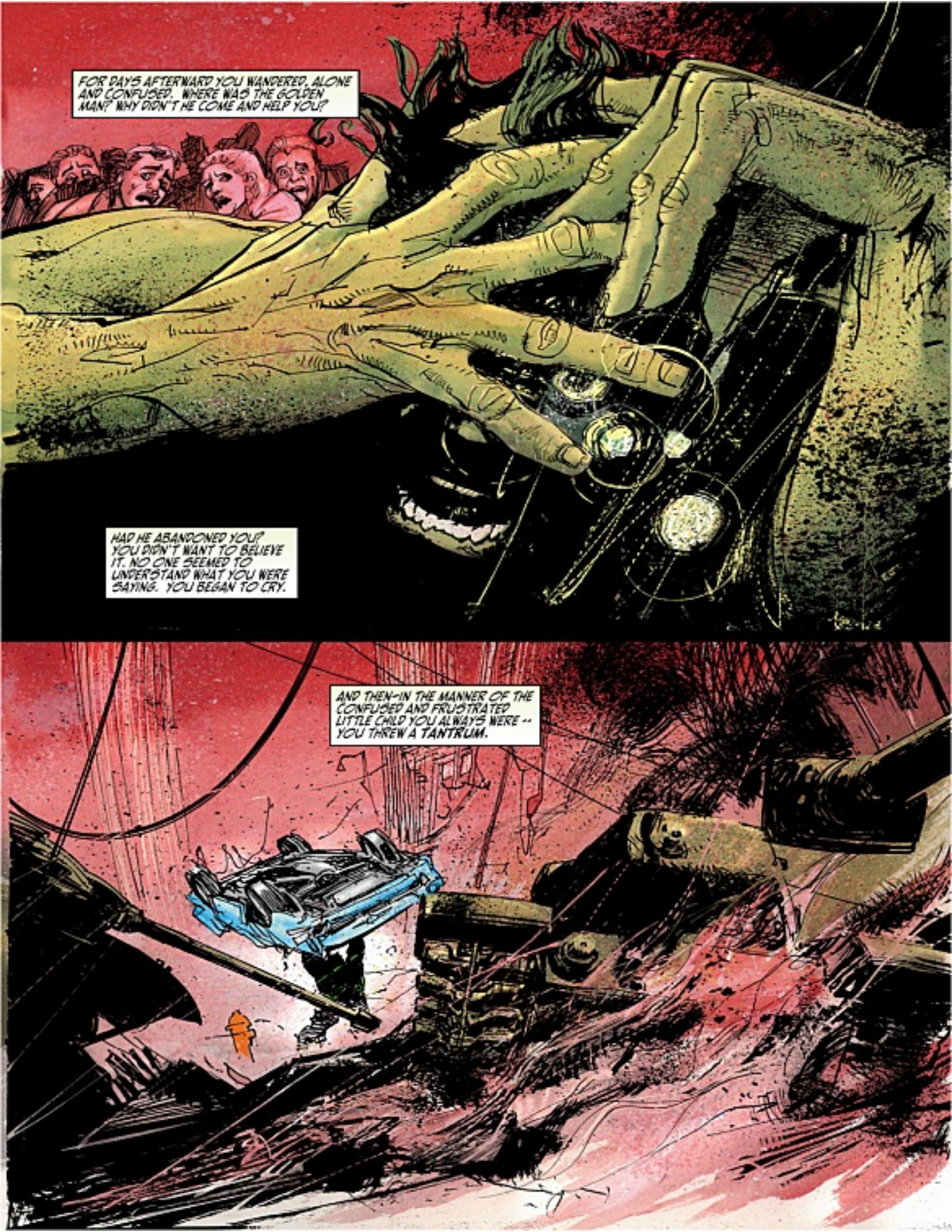
YOUR BONES FROZE AS YOU FELT THE CHILL OF THE VOID FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER. THE MIND BEGAN TO SHAKE THE BUILDINGS ABOVE THE CITY AND SOMEWHERE, A SIREN BEGAN TO WAIL.
YOU HEARD A RASPING VOICE INSIDE YOUR MIND: "OH, LOOK! IT'S THAT EMOTIONALLY-STUNTED LITTLE GOLDEN BOY AND HIS BIG, GREEN PLAYMATE COME TO CHASE ME AWAY!"
YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... THE VOID WAS TAUNTING YOU: "LET'S SEE IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, HULK," HE SAID.
"MY ENEMY'S FRIEND IS MY ENEMY. I'M GOING TO DRAG YOU INSIDE ME, FREAK, AND PULL YOU APART, SCREAMING PIECE BY SCREAMING PIECE. FOR JOINING WITH THE SENTRY, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY!"
NOT IF I HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER, VOID!
GOLDEN MAN THREW A BEAM OF LIGHT TOWARDS THE SHADOW CREATURE. THE VOID SCREAMED, AND THRUST ITSELF TO MEET THE ATTACK...
... AND THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED.

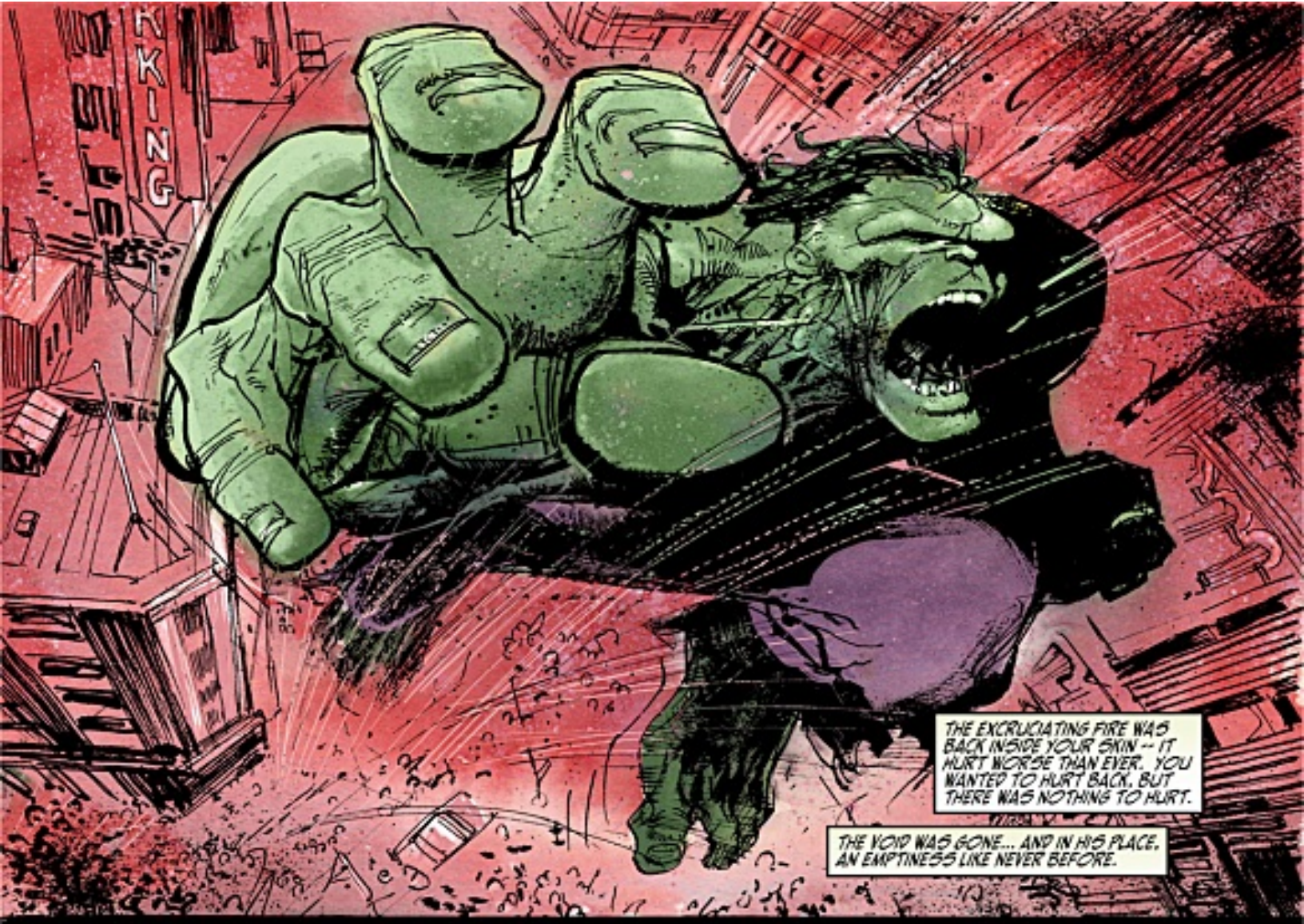

YOU LEAPED TOWARDS THE VOID, BUT IMMEDIATELY FELT A CURIOUS SENSATION IN YOUR LEGS -- IT WAS AS IF SOME STRANGE FORCE WERE HOLDING YOU DOWN.
THE SENTRY WAS BEING OVERWHELMED -- CONSUMED, IT SEEMED, BY THE DARK BEAST. YOU WANTED TO PROTECT HIM, AS HE HAD PROTECTED YOU.
"HULK WILL SMASH SHADOW MAN!" YOU SHOUTED, WITH AS MUCH BRAVADO AS YOU COULD MUSTER.
HULK, NO! DON'T TOUCH THE TENDRILS-!
"HULK WILL...
"... HULK WILL..."
AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, YOU FELT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN AN INSTANT, YOUR WORLD ENDED --
-- AND LIFE ON THE UNDERSIDE OF HELL BEGAN.

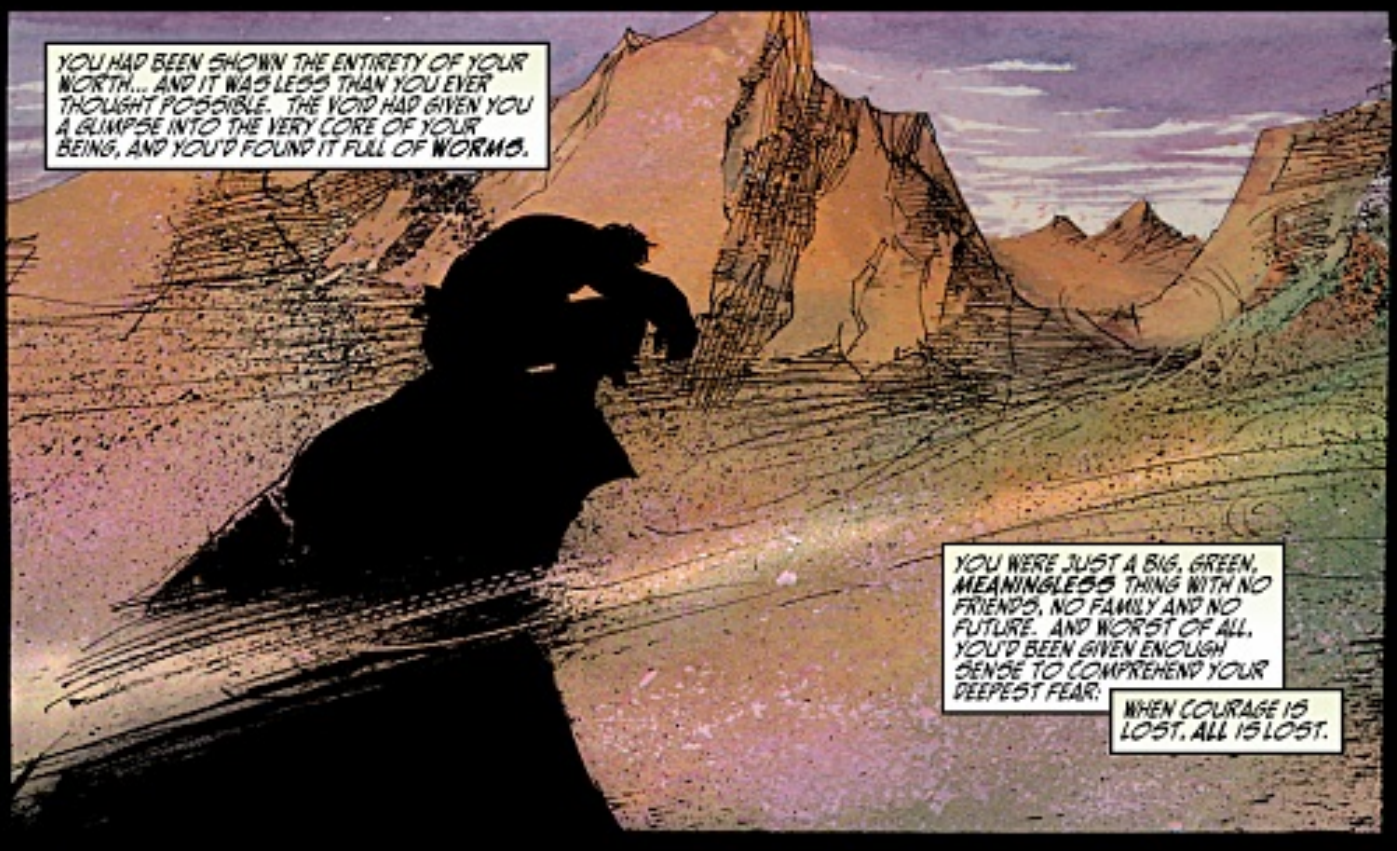
YOU SEE IT EVEN NOW, HULK -- THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR TIME ON EARTH ALL WRAPPED UP IN A NICE, NEAT PACKAGE BY THE VOID. THEY ARE ALL THE MOMENTS YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM.
YOU'RE A LITTLE BOY WITH A LIVID RED MARK ON YOUR FACE, COURTESY OF DADDY. YOUR NOSE IS NUMBED BY THE PAIN, AND THERE'S A SCAR ON YOUR HEART THAT'LL NEVER GO AWAY.
YOU'RE AN ARROGANT YOUNG MAN WHO'S JUST DEVELOPED A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION. YOU MAKE THE OBLIGATORY PROTESTS ABOUT HOW YOUR SCIENCE WAS NEVER INTENDED FOR THIS SORT OF THING... BUT DEEP INSIDE, YOU'RE INTERESTED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
WELL, YOU FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS, DON'T YOU? AND IT'S NOT SO INTERESTING ANYMORE.
THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, AND SHE'S NOT GOING TO LIVE.
HER FATHER IS GOING TO HUNT YOU DOWN. YOU'RE A MONSTER -- A KILLER. IF YOU HAD THE NERVE YOU'D PUT AN END TO YOURSELF, AND THAT WOULD SAVE A LOT OF HEARTACHE.
BUT YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A COWARD. YOU'D RATHER KEEP PRETENDING YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS SEARCHING FOR A CURE.

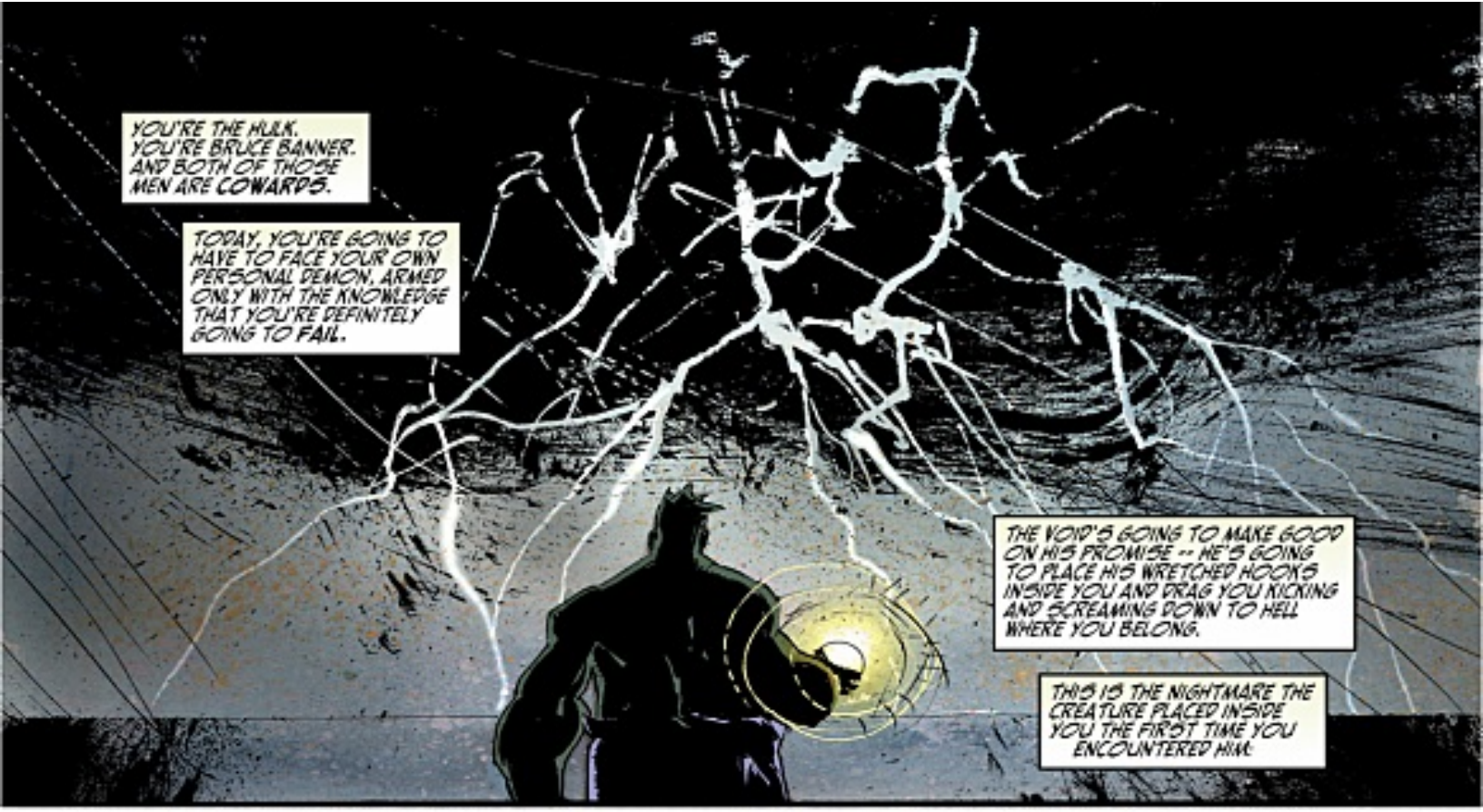

EVEN THOUGH SECRETLY, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TRY VERY HARD TO FIND ONE.
YOU SEE ALL THE BAD TIMES... PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. THE VOID GIVES YOU ALL THE TRUTH YOU CAN HANDLE.
THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL DIES.
AND ONE DAY -- FAR INTO THE FUTURE -- SO DO YOU.

ALL THIS YOU SAW AS YOU FELL FOR WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY TOWARDS THE GROUND. YOUR ENTIRE LIFE... YOUR PAINFUL, TRAGIC DEATH.
THE VOID'S WORDS ECHOED INSIDE YOU AS YOU PLUMMETED TOWARDS HARSH REALITY BELOW.
"I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU, HULK. I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO FINALLY DRAGS YOU INTO AN ETERNITY OF TORMENT. AND WHEN YOU GET THERE, MY BIG, GREEN FRIEND, I'M GOING TO SPIT IN YOUR FACE.
"I WILL HATE YOU FOREVER. BECAUSE THE SENTRY LOVES YOU."
KRASH
MTA


FOR DAYS AFTERWARD YOU WANDERED, ALONE AND CONFUSED. WHERE WAS THE GOLDEN MAN? WHY DIDN'T HE COME AND HELP YOU?
HAD HE ABANDONED YOU? YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT. NO ONE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE SAYING. YOU BEGAN TO CRY.
AND THEN--IN THE MANNER OF THE CONFUSED AND FRUSTRATED LITTLE CHILD YOU ALWAYS WERE -- YOU THREW A TANTRUM.


THE EXCRUCIATING FIRE WAS BACK INSIDE YOUR SKIN -- IT HURT WORSE THAN EVER. YOU WANTED TO HURT BACK. BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO HURT.
THE VOID WAS GONE... AND IN HIS PLACE, AN EMPTINESS LIKE NEVER BEFORE.


YOU HAD BEEN SHOWN THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR WORTH... AND IT WAS LESS THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE. THE VOID HAD GIVEN YOU A GLIMPSE INTO THE VERY CORE OF YOUR BEING, AND YOU'D FOUND IT FULL OF WORMS.
YOU WERE JUST A BIG, GREEN, MEANINGLESS THING WITH NO FRIENDS, NO FAMILY AND NO FUTURE. AND WORST OF ALL, YOU'D BEEN GIVEN ENOUGH SENSE TO COMPREHEND YOUR DEEPEST FEAR.
WHEN COURAGE IS LOST, ALL IS LOST.


YOU'RE THE HULK. YOU'RE BRUCE BANNER. AND BOTH OF THOSE MEN ARE COWARDS.
TODAY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FACE YOUR OWN PERSONAL DEMON, ARMED ONLY WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO FAIL.
THE VOID'S GOING TO MAKE GOOD ON HIS PROMISE -- HE'S GOING TO PLACE HIS WRETCHED HOOKS INSIDE YOU AND DRAG YOU KICKING AND SCREAMING DOWN TO HELL WHERE YOU BELONG.
THIS IS THE NIGHTMARE THE CREATURE PLACED INSIDE YOU THE FIRST TIME YOU ENCOUNTERED HIM.

IT'S NOT ABOUT LOSING YOUR LIFE, HULK...
... IT'S ABOUT LOSING THE FEW REMAINING FRAGMENTS OF YOUR SOUL.